

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies. I plan to discontinue my cable services, but am hesitant to do so, because there are no local channels available in my area.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet via my cable company, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Desmond Shaw  
142 Forge Farm Ct  
Irmo, SC 29063